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CITY OF SUMTER RECEIVES STATEWIDE AWARD FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

July 5, 2012 – The Municipal Association of South Carolina has awarded the City of Sumter the 2012 Annual Achievement Award for Economic Development in a city with a population of more than 20,000.

“This award is recognition of more than a decade of community development progress,” Mayor Joe McElveen said. “The Sumter PRIDE Program has literally changed the landscape of the Sumter community to the benefit of Sumter residents.”

Since the program’s adoption by Sumter City Council in 2002, the Sumter PRIDE Program has identified and eliminated 322 uninhabitable, dilapidated dwellings within city limits, improving not only the aesthetic quality of area neighborhoods but also alleviating many socioeconomic problems caused by the presence of blighted and abandoned buildings.

“There is a bigger impact than that directly to the property owners,” said McElveen. “The removal of these buildings means less crime and higher property values in the surrounding neighborhoods.”

The goal of this ongoing project is to increase the quality of life of those living in the residential areas affected by negligent buildings as well as aid individual property owners with the demolition process.

A vital part of the process is communication between city staff and neighborhood groups and associations, property owners, and community residents. The property owner retains the land during and after the building has been removed. The program’s process involves a multi-layered cooperation between city departments in identifying and removing uninhabitable buildings. The process for the Sumter PRIDE Program is located below this release. All parts of the process are overseen by Special Projects Manager Bob Fleury.

The program is annually funded by the City of Sumter’s annual allocation from the Department of Housing and Urban Development through the formula-based Community Development Block Grant. Despite funding decreases from HUD, the City of Sumter still demolished 23 uninhabitable buildings in 2011.

For more information on the Municipal Association of South Carolina or the annual MASC Achievement Awards, visit www.masc.sc. For more information on the Sumter PRIDE Program, contact Special Projects Manager Bob Fleury at (803) 436-2664.

Residential Demolition Assistance – Process

- Identify blighted property (vacant boarded-up dwellings)
- Contact property owner (in-state & out of state)
 - ↳ Codes Enforcement Officers
 - ↳ City Council members
 - ↳ Neighborhood Associations & Groups
- Meet and discuss demolition program with property owner reminding them that they still own the vacant site after demolition;and that the City will ensure the proper removal and permitting by the demolition contractor.
- Owner's signature required on Application Release Form stating that there are no mortgages and/or liens;and grants permission for the City's contractor to access the property for demolition purposes.
- Determine if exterior siding is asbestos material-SCDHEC requires that asbestos siding be removed by a licensed Asbestos Abatement contractor and disposed of at a lined landfill facility.
- Prepare contractor bid proposal package (usually) 3-dwellings at a time with 3-weeks for completion /footprint of each dwelling is removed including steps,porches, chimneys,pier supports, and concrete slabs.
- Low bid contractor is responsible for Demolition Permit(s) and Landfill Disposal Fee.
- All phases of the demolition project are inspected by Special Projects Manager Bob Fleury assuring that all materials have been removed during demolition.
- Contractor is paid upon completion and inspection of each property.